The customs duties on most of the items for which QRs have been removed, has already been raised to the peak level of 35%. On some agricultural items like rice, duty has been raised in the case of rice upto 80%, on apples to 50% and on maize to 50%. The imports are being closely monitored and Government is determiend to ensure through appropriate use of tariff mechanism that imports do not cause any serious detriment or injury to the domestic producers. Moreover, in the event of any unfair trade practice being adopted by exporters of other countries or if there were to be a sudden surge in imports causing injury to the domestic industry, sufficient provisions are available in the form of anti-dumping/safeguard measures to protect the domestic industry.

Developmental activities in the Information and Broadcasting Units in Assam

*409. Dr. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) the details of developmental activities undertaken to provide latest technologies including best satellite uplinking facilities, in the Information and Broadcasting units in Assam;

(b) the cadre-wise numbers of vacancies in the various departments of Information and Broadcasting Ministry in Assam; and

(c) the steps taken to fill these vacancies and the expected time by which this exercise will be completed?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF DISINVESTMENT (SHRI ARUN JAITELY) : (a) Details of developmental activities are as follows :

BROADCASTING SECTOR

1. *DOORDARSHAN*

Guwahati Doordarshan is already equipped with uplinking facility both in analog and digital mode. Besides an LPT at Bokakhat and a transponder at Guwahati for DD-1 service in the State of Assam, High Power Transmitters at Guwahati & Silchar in replacement of LPTs, are under implementation.

2. ALL INDIA RADIO

In respect of All India Radio, at Tezpur radio station with multipurpose studio set up and 20 KW MW Transmitter is ready for commissioning and at

Silchar replacement of old 10 KW MW Transmitter with a new state of the art 20 KW MW Transmitter is under implementation. The existing dedicated satellite uplink at Guwahati for networking the Radio Broadcast Centre in Assam is proposed to be upgraded with a new digital satellite uplink. In addition, digital-cum-analog C-Band terminals are proposed to be set up at AIR, Silchar & Dibrugarh and all AIR stations in the State of Assam would be provided the following studio equipment during the 9th plan :

(i) CD players in place of conventional analog turn tables, (ii) Digital audio work stations at all the centers except Local Radio Stations subject to availability of funds and relative priorities.

3. *OTHER UNITS*

The offices of Publication Division, Directorate of Advertising & Visual Publicity (DAVP), Directorate of Field Publicity (DFP), Song & Drama Division and Press Information Bureau (PIB) in Assam have been provided modern technological facilities like Personal Computers & Internet Connection.

(b) The cadre-wise vacancy position is given in the attached statement *(See* below)

(c) Most of the vacancies exist in All India Radio & Doordarshan which now form part of the autonomous Prasar Bharati Corporation. Prasar Bharati is in the process of creating the requisite administrative infrastructure including, *inter alia* framing of necessary sendee conditions and regulations, whereafter action would be taken for filling up the vacant posts. Efforts are on to fill up vacancies in other media units.

STATEMENT

Details of Cadre-wise vacancies in the various media units of Ministry of Information & Broadcasting in Assam as referred in part (b) of the statement to Rajya Sabha Starred Question No. 409 for dated 24-4-2000

Media	Groups 'A'	Group ***'B***	Group 'C	Group 'D'
AIR	13	30	97	15
DDN	15	49	82	11
PIB	—	—	**3**	—
DFP	1	4	5	—
DAVP	2	1	4	1
DPD	—	1	—	1
Song & Drama Division	—	—	6	—